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ICC Establishes Office of Diversity and Community Affairs

Chicago, IL - The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) announced today the establishment of a new Office of Diversity and Community Affairs, with Danisha Hall as director. The initiative complements Governor Bruce Rauner's commitment to diversity and community outreach.

The Office of Diversity and Community Affairs is charged with assisting the ICC in its commitment to greater access to utility procurement contracts for women-owned, minority-owned, veteran-owned and small businesses under state law. The office will develop and maintain internal and external diversity and inclusion initiatives, including working to improve the ICC's own culture of diversity. The office will lead efforts to partner with utilities, consumer advocates, and other stakeholders in consumer education and community outreach efforts with the goal of making the work of the ICC more visible and accessible to Illinois consumers and stakeholders.

"The Commission is taking a lead role in policy initiatives to increase supplier diversity while working with community partners on comprehensive energy and utility issues," said Brien J. Sheahan, chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission. "Danisha has played a key role in helping the Commission carry out these initiatives; with the establishment of the Office of Diversity and Community Affairs, we place a more direct focus on making these goals a continuous, long-term reality."

Hall has worked for the State of Illinois for nearly four years, having spent the last two years at the ICC as a legal and policy advisor to Commissioner Sherina E. Maye. As a legal and policy advisor, she worked closely with ICC staff to plan supplier diversity policy sessions and became actively involved in efforts to improve diversity and community outreach.

"I am honored to launch the Office of Diversity and Community Affairs," said Hall. "I look forward to promoting the important issues of diversity and inclusion, minority and women-owned business participation, and community partnership throughout the State."

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission's mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission pursues this mission through three bureaus: the Consumer Services Bureau provides educational information on utility issues, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utility Bureau focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; the Transportation Bureau includes trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC's five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.